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HOUSE MEMORIAL 21

47TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2006

INTRODUCED BY

Hector H. Balderas

A MEMORIAL

ENCOURAGING LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT FOR THE CREATION OF A
METHAMPHETAMINE PROSECUTION UNIT IN THE SECOND JUDICIAL
DISTRICT THAT WILL SERVE AS A MODEL FOR DISTRICT ATTORNEYS AND
LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES IN NEW MEXICO'S RURAL COMMUNITIES THAT
ARE STRUGGLING TO FIGHT METHAMPHETAMINE-RELATED CRIMES AND
OFFENDERS.

WHEREAS, methamphetamine is rapidly becoming the local
drug of choice in New Mexico's communities and is having an
overwhelming impact on local law enforcement and the criminal
justice system; and

WHEREAS, methamphetamine is a criminal-lifestyle drug and
fuels a broad range of felony criminal activity, including
automobile theft, forgery, credit-card fraud, identity theft,
mail theft, burglary and shoplifting; and

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1 WHEREAS, local gangs are becoming involved in the
2 distribution of methamphetamine, and methamphetamine offenders
3 are becoming the most prolific repeat offenders in the criminal
4 justice system; and

5 WHEREAS, to combat the growing number of methamphetamine
6 rings and repeat offenders, law enforcement agencies and
7 district attorneys in communities across New Mexico need to
8 develop effective ways of sharing information and prioritizing
9 prosecution efforts; and

10 WHEREAS, in 2005, the second judicial district attorney,
11 realizing the need for improved communication and information
12 sharing between law enforcement agencies and district
13 attorneys, began holding regular meetings with local law
14 enforcement agencies in Bernalillo, Valencia, Sandoval and
15 Torrance counties to target the methamphetamine epidemic; and

16 WHEREAS, the second judicial district attorney also
17 initiated communication with federal law enforcement agencies,
18 including the United States postal inspection service and the
19 secret service, on the methamphetamine problem; and

20 WHEREAS, based on input from law enforcement agencies, the
21 second judicial district attorney developed the ability to
22 focus on those repeat offenders linked to methamphetamine-
23 related crimes who are causing the most damage to the community
24 and who are worthy of higher priority prosecution efforts; and

25 WHEREAS, in order to effectively handle the growing

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1 caseload of methamphetamine offenders, the second judicial
2 district attorney seeks to establish a methamphetamine
3 prosecution unit that works with law enforcement in identifying
4 methamphetamine repeat offenders and screening, expediting and
5 prosecuting methamphetamine-related cases; and

6 WHEREAS, the second judicial district attorney has
7 requested funding from the New Mexico legislature in 2006 for
8 the additional attorneys, paralegals and secretaries needed to
9 maximize the prosecution efforts of its methamphetamine
10 prosecution unit; and

11 WHEREAS, the second judicial district attorney's
12 methamphetamine prosecution unit and its innovative methods of
13 networking with law enforcement agencies can serve as a model
14 for rural communities in New Mexico that are struggling to
15 fight methamphetamine-related crimes and offenders; and

16 WHEREAS, by collaborating with district attorneys in rural
17 areas of New Mexico, the second judicial district attorney can
18 serve as a catalyst for improved cooperation between law
19 enforcement agencies and district attorneys that can result in
20 reducing the harmful impacts of methamphetamine on New Mexico's
21 communities;

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
23 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the legislature
24 support the creation of a methamphetamine prosecution unit in
25 the second judicial district that will serve as a model for

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1 district attorneys and law enforcement agencies in rural areas
2 that are struggling to fight methamphetamine-related crimes and
3 offenders; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the second judicial district
5 attorney be requested to collaborate with district attorneys in
6 New Mexico's rural communities in an effort to help those areas
7 develop effective strategies for facilitating communication
8 with law enforcement agencies and managing their prosecution
9 efforts against methamphetamine offenders; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the second judicial district
11 attorney present a report on the development and status of the
12 methamphetamine prosecution unit and the progress in
13 collaborating with New Mexico's rural communities to the
14 interim legislative courts, corrections and justice committee
15 by November 1, 2006; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
17 transmitted to the second judicial district attorney and the
18 co-chairs of the interim legislative courts, corrections and
19 justice committee.